

## **MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES – MARCH 11, 2021**

The March 11, 2021 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was conducted via Zoom and was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe. Participating were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Jim McMekin, Ruth Panté, Township Committeeman Glenn McGuinness and Township Clerk Dena Hrebenak; participating guest was Township resident William N. Sosis. Amanda Kilyk was excused. Not responding to the invitation were Glenn Todd, Kathie Todd and Township Committeewoman Desiree Dillon. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mr. Tarlowe. With no discussion, corrections or abstentions, the motion carried with all in favor.

#### Correspondence

A letter dated March 10 from Mr. Sosis was received today and forwarded to Commission members who had insufficient time to respond adequately. Mr. Sosis addressed the issue of PFAs contamination in drinking water, outlining in detail the dangers of the potential harmful contamination shown in recent reports. Mr. Tarlowe suggested the need for Township Committee review, and he invited Mr. Sosis to attend the next Township Committee meeting to suggest they consider the potential danger, the need to inform Township residents and possibly offer discounted testing services to residents. Mr. Jewell said the Warren County Health Department might be able to handle this; however, they are swamped now with the ongoing pandemic. Ms. Hrebenak said the letter was received late and the Township Committee cannot discuss this until the next meeting. Commission members agreed to digest the contents of the letter and discuss at a future meeting. There were no comments from Mr. Sosis.

Mr. Tarlowe believes the Township website should include announcements about the commission's monthly meetings similar to those for township committee meetings so interested residents can attend; there is currently no information on the web site to invite residents. Ms. Hrebenak's concern is that residents will confuse these announcements with those of the township committee. Mr. Tarlowe urged her to post them and see how it works out. Ms. Hrebenak agreed to do so.

In his role as the township's representative on the Musconetcong River Management Council, Mr. Tarlowe was invited to join a virtual meeting with Congressman Gottheimer's Legislative Assistant Jennifer Mangano. Mr. Tarlowe spoke in support of the Musconetcong Watershed Association and the benefits of the Musconetcong River as part of the national Wild and Scenic

River System. A brochure about the river is being prepared in conjunction with the National Park Service.

#### Land Use Board

Mr. Jewell reported the Land Use Board has cancelled its meeting March for lack of applications. Mr. Tarlowe read that 40 percent of the population may now have immunity from having had Covid or a vaccine, so hopefully May and June will open up with construction activity.

#### Bluebird Trail

Mr. Tarlowe has spoken with Lisa Misertino who reported she has updated the record keeping website; she and Michelle Barrett plan to be involved. Flyers had been created by Dawn Smith, they are in Mr. Tarlowe's possession for updating. Repainting the numbers on the boxes is planned so as to help with record keeping. The birds are expected back in March or April.

#### ANJEC 2021 Open Space Grants

In 2020 an application was made for an ANJEC grant that would have helped with the upkeep at Cafferata Park; unfortunately, the grant was denied with no explanation. With the small number of active Environmental Commission members at this time Mr. Tarlowe suggests not applying unless someone offers to undertake this effort. It would be good to apply again this year to perhaps build more bluebird boxes. A discussion of box construction followed, and Mr. McMekin offered to donate wood for the boxes. Mr. Tarlowe suggested a community event in the summer to make construction kits available for distribution.

#### Year-End Report

Ms. Panté reviewed the Commission's efforts for 2020; Mr. Tarlowe will send her more details on the Salem Oak Seedling effort to be included in the report. Mr. Jewell will help with the report on Cafferata Park improvements. The pandemic has shut down many of our plans.

Environmental Comments: None.

It was MOVED by Mr. McMekin to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:  
April 8, 2021**